

DUAL MODE SWITCH MECHANISM FOR FLASHLIGHTS

869
8/30/05

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

- [01] This application is a continuation-in-part of US Patent Application No. 10/378,538, filed March 3, 2003, now US Patent No. 6,709,129, which claims priority from earlier filed provisional patent application No. 60/373,464, filed April 18, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- [02] The present invention relates generally to a dual mode switch for improved functioning in flashlight devices. More specifically, the present invention relates to an improved pushbutton switching mechanism for flashlights that provides a momentary and constant ON feature as well as a positive, reliable OFF position.
- [03] Flashlights of varying sizes and shapes are generally well known in the art. A number of such designs are known that utilize two or more batteries as their source for electrical energy. Typically, these batteries are carried in series in a tubular body, where the tubular body also serves as a handle for the flashlight. In order to operate the flashlight, an electrical circuit is established from one terminal of the battery, through a conductor to an external switch located in an opening in the side of the tubular body and then through another conductor to one contact of a bulb. After passing through the filament of the bulb, the electrical circuit emerges through a second